

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2119

USUN NEW YORK 1058

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 4865

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, BG, UN

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH DELEGATION TO UNGA

1. BDG ANNOUNCED SEPTEMBER 16 COMPOSITION OF ITS DELEGATION TO 31ST UNGA. DACCA PORTION OF DELEGATION IS TO DEPART FOR NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 17. DELEGATION IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN NEW YORK VIA TWA FROM LONDON ON SEPTEMBER 19.

2. DELEGATES:

A. REAR ADMIRAL M.H. KHAN, LEADER. KHAN IS CHIEF OF NAVVAL STAFF AND DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR. HE HAS UNDERTAKEN A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ASSIGNMENTS, INCLUDING MOST RECENTLY LEADERSHIP OF DELEGATION TO NEW DELHI TO DISCUSS FARAKKA BARRAGE ISSUE.

B. KHWAJA MOHAMMAD KAISER, DVEPUTY LEADER, WHO WILL ASSUME LEADERSHIP WHEN KHAN RETURNS TO DACCA AFTER WHAT IS EXPECTED TO BE RELATIVELY SHORT STAY. KAISER IS CAREER PAKISTANI/BANGLADESHI DIPLOMAT WHO IS CURRENTLY PERMREP IN NEW YORK.

C. M.A. RAHMAN, HIGH COMMISSIONER TO CANADA. FORMERLY AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT.

D. JUSTICE S.K.M.A. MUHIM, OF THE BD SUPREME COURT.

E. B.M. ABBAS, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER VON POWER, FLOOD
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CONTROL AND WATER RESOURCES. ABBAS IS LONG TIME CIVIL

SERVANT IN ENGINEERING FIELD AND HAS BEEN PAKISTAN REPRESENTATIVE ON GANGES WATERS COMMISSION CONTINUING HIS ROLE SINCE INDEPENDENCE. COMMENT: MAKE UP OF DELEGATION AND ADVISOR GROUP HIGHLIGHTS BANGLADESH INTENTION TO RAISE FARAKKA ISSUE AT UNGA. ABBAS HAS BEEN CONNECTED WITH CONTROVERSY FROM BEGINNING.

F. M.A. CHOUDHURY, ADDITIONAL FOREIGN SECRETARY, CAREER PAKISTANI DIPLOMAT WHO WAS NOT TAKEN INTO BD FOREIGN SERVICE UNTIL AFTER DEPARTURE OF MUJIB FROMV LOCAL SCENE, PRESUMABLY AS HIS FATHER WAS POLITICAL OPPONENT OF MUJIB FROM DAYS OF PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT IN 50S. FATHER, JAMIDUL HAQ CHOUDHURY, LED PAKISTAN UNGA DELEGATION IN 1957 AS FOREIGN MINISTER. YOUNGER CHOUDHURY IS CONSIDERED WELL VERSED IN NEGOTIATION AND MODERATE IN VIEWS. IF HE FOLLOWS PARENTAL EXAMPLE, HE SHOULD BE MORE AMENABLE TO ACCOMMODATION WITH INDIA. HE SHOULD BE USEFUL CONTACT FOR USUN.

3. ALTERNATE DELEGATES:

A. SYED ISHTIAQUE AHMED; A SENIOR MEMBER OF THE BAR PRACTICING AT THE SUPREME COURT.

B. KAISER RASHID, A FORMER PAKISTAN FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER. RASHID TIED HIS STAR TO BHUTTO WHEN LATTER WAS FOREIGN MINISTER IN AYUB CABINET AND FELL FROM GRACE WHEN HIS MASTER DID AND RESIGNED FROM FOREIGN SERVICE. HIS VIEWS THEN ECHOED THOSE OF BHUTTO IN MID-60S AND TOOK ON EVEN MORE SHRILL ANTI-AMERICAN CHARACTER. PRIOR TO 1970 ELECTIONS HE RETURNED TO EAST PAKISTAN WITH HOPE OF ORGANIZING PROVINCIAL BRANCH OF PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY HERE AND MET WITH A COMPLETE LACK OF RESPONSE. HE HAS BEEN ENGAGED IN BUSINESS SINCE AND APPEARS TO HAVE TEMPERED HIS EARLIER VIEWS CONSIDERABLY. FYI: HIS SECOND WIFE IS SOUTH AFRICAN. END FYI. HE STUDIED AT FLETCHER AND IS A MEMBER OF A LEADING LAND OWNING FAMILY IN SYLHET.

C. M. ASAFUDDOWLAH, CHAIRMAN, WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD AND CAREER VCIVIL SERVANT. HE WILL PRESUMABLY PINCH HIT FOR ABBAS IN LATTER PART OF SESSION.

D. RIAZ REHMAN, COUNSELOR, BD UN MISSION.
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E. F. KARIM, FIRST SECRETARY, BD UN MISSION.

4. ADVISERS INCLUDE TWO WATER SPECIALISTS: MFA SIDDIQUI, MEMBER, JOINT RIVERS COMMISSION; AND AMJAD HOSSAIN KHAN, DIRECTOR, WATER INVESTIGATION, WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD; AND TWO MEMBGRS OF BD UN MISSION.
CHESLAW

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